

Rebecca Wasserman
Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee
June 20, 2019

2019 Capital Bill (Act 42)
Corrections Facility Study Language

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

(a) The following sums are appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS), and the Commissioner is authorized to direct funds appropriated in this section to the projects contained in this section; however, no project shall be canceled unless the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions are notified before that action is taken.

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2020:

(1) Statewide, BGS engineering and architectural project costs:

\$3,583,423.00

(2) Statewide, physical security enhancements:

\$275,000.00

(3) Statewide, major maintenance:

\$6,500,000.00

(4) Statewide, planning, use, and contingency:

\$700,000.00

* * *

(d) For the amount appropriated in subdivision (b)(4) of this section, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to use up to \$200,000.00 to assess relative costs and resource requirements for potential construction of a correctional facility that ranges in scale in order to accommodate the results of the Council of State Governments' study described in Sec. 28 of this act; provided, however, that the funds shall only become available after approval by the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee. On or before March 15, 2020, the Commissioner shall submit a copy of the assessment to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

Rebecca Wasserman
Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee
June 20, 2019

* * *

Sec. 28. COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS; CORRECTIONS;

STUDY

(a) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to work with the Council of State Governments (CSG) to assess the population trends and programming in the State's corrections system and that the State consider criminal justice reform strategies as part of the Justice Reinvestment II initiative. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that this assessment and initiative shall inform infrastructure needs for State correctional facilities.

(b) Study. The Legislative Branch shall contract with the Council of State Governments to work with the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches and conduct a review of programming, transitional services, and population trends in Vermont's correctional facilities. The review may include an evaluation of the women's population in Vermont and the programming and services needed to meet their needs, the detention population, and barriers that exist to reducing the population.

**Examples of “resource requirements” and “cost assessments”
(as provided by the Department of Buildings and General Services)**

- Examples of “resource requirements”: depending on the number of beds, the supporting administrative and mechanical facilities that would need to be scaled accordingly.
 - How big of a sewer line or heat plant is needed?
 - How many acres of land or parking spaces are needed?
 - Kitchen space standards to feed [xx] number of people or infirmary bed standards for [xx] number of people.
- Examples of “cost assessments”:
 - A rough idea of what it would cost to build (not including land acquisition).
 - Permitting (the physical construction piece), keeping in mind that there are a number of variables.